



**4310-MR**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management**

**[Docket ID: BOEM-2018-0016]**

**[MMAA104000; OMB Control Number 1010-0151]**

**Agency Information Collection Activities; 30 CFR 550, Subpart B, Plans and Information**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Information Collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is proposing to renew an information collection with revisions.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments on the information collection request (ICR) by mail to the BOEM Information Collection Clearance Officer, Anna Atkinson, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 45600 Woodland Road, VA DIR-BOEM, Sterling, Virginia 20166 (mail); or by email to [anna.atkinson@boem.gov](mailto:anna.atkinson@boem.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 1010-0151 in the subject line of your comment.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request additional information about this ICR, contact Anna Atkinson by email, or by telephone at 703-787-1025.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an

opportunity to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

We are soliciting comments on the proposed ICR that is described below. We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is the collection necessary to the proper functions of BOEM; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might BOEM enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might BOEM minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology?

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

*Abstract:* This information collection request concerns the paperwork requirements in the regulations under 30 CFR part 550, Subpart B, Plans and Information.

The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. § 1331 *et seq.* and 43 U.S.C. § 1801 *et seq.*), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to prescribe rules

and regulations to administer leasing of mineral resources on the OCS. Such rules and regulations apply to all operations conducted under a lease, or unit. The OCS Lands Act, at 43 U.S.C. §§ 1340 and 1351, requires the holders of OCS oil and gas or sulphur leases to submit exploration plans (EPs) and development and production plans (DPPs) to the Secretary for approval prior to commencing these activities. Also, as a Federal agency, we have an affirmative duty to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Compliance with the ESA includes a substantive duty to carry out any agency action in a manner that is not likely to jeopardize protected species, as well as a procedural duty to consult with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA Fisheries) before engaging in a discretionary action that may affect a protected species.

This authority and responsibility are among those delegated to BOEM. The regulations at 30 CFR part 550, Subpart B, concern plans and information that must be submitted to conduct activities on a lease or unit, and are the subject of this collection. The collection also covers the related Notices to Lessees and Operators (NTLs) that BOEM issues to clarify or provide additional guidance on some aspects of our regulations.

In 2016, BOEM published a final rule entitled “Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations on the Outer Continental Shelf—Requirements for Exploratory Drilling on the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf.” This rule finalized new regulations specific to activities conducted on the Arctic OCS that modify 30 CFR part 550, Subpart B. The new regulations require operators to develop an Integrated Operations Plan (IOP) for each exploratory program

on the Arctic OCS, as well as to submit additional planning information with the Exploration Plans. An additional 3,930 burden hours were approved as part of that rulemaking, and are included in the burden table for this control number. The Secretary's Order 3350 (May 1, 2017), which further implements the President's Executive Order entitled, "Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy (82 FR 20815, May 3, 2017) directs BOEM to review the final rule. If the Secretary decides that the final determination is to suspend, revise, or rescind the rule, the related burden hours in this OMB control number will be adjusted accordingly.

BOEM geologists, geophysicists, and environmental scientists and other Federal agencies (e.g., USFWS, NOAA Fisheries) analyze and evaluate the information and data collected under Subpart B to ensure that planned operations are safe; will not adversely affect the marine, coastal, or human environment; and will conserve the resources of the OCS. BOEM uses the information to make an informed decision on whether to approve the proposed exploration or development and production plan as submitted, or require plan modifications. The affected States also review the information collected to determine consistency with approved Coastal Zone Management plans.

*Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:* We expect the estimated annual reporting burden for this collection to be 436,438 hours. We are transferring 3,930 annual burden hours from OMB control number 1010-0189, 30 CFR 550, Subpart B, Arctic OCS Activities, to this information collection request. These 3,930 annual burden hours are for Arctic exploration requirements which were approved by OMB in the final rule for Requirements for Exploratory Drilling on the Arctic OCS, 81 FR 46478 (July 15, 2016). Once this information collection request is approved by OMB, we will

be discontinuing OMB control number 1010-0189.

*Title of Collection:* 30 CFR 550, Subpart B, Plans and Information.

*OMB Control Number:* 1010-0151.

*Form Number:*

- *BOEM-0137—OCS Plan Information Form*
- *BOEM-0138—Exploration Plan (EP) Air Quality Screening Checklist*
- *BOEM-0139—Development Operations Coordination Document (DOCD) Air Quality Screening Checklist*
- *BOEM-0141—ROV Survey Report*
- *BOEM-0142—Environmental Impact Analysis Worksheet*

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* Potential respondents comprise Federal OCS oil, gas, or sulphur lessees and operators.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 4,266.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 436,438.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Mandatory.

*Frequency of Collection:* On occasion, semi-monthly, and varies by section.

*Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Cost:* \$3,939,435.

We have identified three non-hour costs associated with this information collection that are cost recovery fees. They consist of fees being submitted with EPs (\$3,673), DPPs or DOCDs (\$4,238), and CIDs (\$27,348).

There is also one non-hour cost associated with the protected Species Observer Program. The cost associated with this program is due to observation activities that are usually subcontracted to other service companies with expertise in these areas.

The following table details the individual components and respective hour burden estimates of this information collection request.

### BURDEN BREAKDOWN

Citation 30 CFR 550 Subpart B and NTLs	Reporting & Recordkeeping Requirement	Hour Burden	Average No. of Annual Responses	Burden Hours
		Non-Hour Costs		
200 thru 206	General requirements for plans and information; fees/refunds, etc.	Burden included with specific requirements below.		0
201 thru 206; 211 thru 228; 241 thru 262	BOEM posts EPs/DPPs/DOCs on FDMS, and receives public comments for preparation of EAs.	Not considered IC as defined in 5 CFR 1320.3(h)(4).		0
204	For new Arctic OCS exploration activities: submit IOP, including all required information.	2,880	1	2,880
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>2,880</b>
<b>Ancillary Activities</b>				
208; NTL 2009-G34*	Notify BOEM in writing and other users of the OCS before conducting ancillary activities.	11	61 notices	671
208; 210(a)	Submit report summarizing & analyzing data/ information obtained or derived from ancillary activities.	2	61 reports	122
208; 210(b)	Retain ancillary activities data/information; upon request, submit to BOEM.	2	61 records	122
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>183</b>	<b>responses</b>	<b>915</b> <b>hours</b>
<b>Contents of Exploration Plans (EP)</b>				
209; 231(b); 232(d); 234; 235; 281(3); 283; 284; 285; NTL 2015-N0	Submit new, amended, modified, revised, or supplemental EP, or resubmit disapproved EP, including required information; withdraw your EP.	150	345 changed plans	51,750
209; 211 thru 228; NTL, 2015-N01	Submit EP and all required information (including, but not limited to, submissions required by BOEM Forms 0137, 0138, 0142; lease stipulations; reports, including shallow hazards surveys; H2S; G&G; archaeological surveys & reports (550.194)), in specified formats. Provide	600	163 plans	97,800
		\$3,673 x 163 EP surface locations = \$598,699 non-hour cost		

Citation 30 CFR 550 Subpart B and NTLs	Reporting & Recordkeeping Requirement	Hour Burden	Average No. of Annual Responses	Burden Hours
		Non-Hour Costs		
	notifications.			
220	Alaska-specific requirements.	Burden included with EP requirements (30 CFR 550.211-228).		0
220	For new Arctic OCS exploration activities: submit required Arctic-specific information with EP.	350	1	350
220	For existing Arctic OCS exploration activities: submit Arctic-specific information, as required.	700	1	700
Subtotal			510 responses	150,600 hours
			\$598,699 Non-Hour Costs	
Review and Decision Process for the EP				
235(b); 272(b); 281(d)(3)(ii)	Appeal State’s objection.	Burden exempt as defined in 5 CFR 1320.4(a)(2), (c).		0
Contents of Development and Production Plans (DPP) and Development Operations Coordination Documents (DOCD)				
209; 266(b); 267(d); 272(a); 273; 281(3)(i); 283; 284; 285; NTL 2015-N01	Submit amended, modified, revised, updated or supplemental DPP or DOCD, including required information, or resubmit disapproved DPP or DOCD.	235	353 changed plans	82,955
241 thru 262; 209; NTL 2015- N01	Submit DPP/DOCD and required/supporting information (including, but not limited to, submissions required by BOEM Forms 0137, 0139, 0142; lease stipulations; reports, including shallow hazards surveys; archaeological surveys & reports such as shallow hazards surveys (CFR 550.194)), in specified formats. Provide notifications.	700	268 plans	187,600
		\$4,238 x 268 DPP/DOCD wells = \$1,135,784		
Subtotal			621 responses	270,555 hours
			\$1,135,784 Non-hour costs	
Review and Decision Process for the DPP or DOCD				
267(a)	Once BOEM deemed DPP/DOCD submitted; Governor of each affected State, local government official; etc., submit comments/recommendations.	Not considered IC as defined in 5 CFR 1320.3(h)(4).		0
267(b)	General public comments/	Not considered IC as		0

Citation 30 CFR 550 Subpart B and NTLs	Reporting & Recordkeeping Requirement		Hour Burden	Average No. of Annual Responses	Burden Hours
			Non-Hour Costs		
	recommendations submitted to BOEM regarding DPPs or DOCDs.		defined in 5 CFR 1320.3(h)(4).		
269(b)	For leases or units in vicinity of proposed development and production activities RD may require those lessees and operators to submit information on preliminary plans for their leases and units.		3	1 response	3
Subtotal			1 responses	3 hours	
Post-Approval Requirements for the EP, DPP, and DOCD					
280(b)	In an emergency, request departure from your approved EP, DPP, or DOCD.		Burden included under 1010-0114.		0
281(a)	Submit various BSEE applications for approval and submit permits.	Burdens included under appropriate subpart or form (1014-0003; 1014-0011; 1014-0016; 1014-0018).			0
282	Retain monitoring data/information; upon request, make available to BOEM.		4	150 records	600
	Prepare and submit monitoring plan for approval.		2	6 plans	12
282(b)	Prepare and Submit monitoring reports and data (including BOEM Form 0141 used in GOMR).		3	12 reports	36
284(a)	Submit updated info on activities conducted under approved EP/DPP/DOCD.		4	56 updates	224
Subtotal			224 responses	872 hours	
Submit CIDs					
296(a); 297	Submit CID and required/supporting information; submit CID for supplemental DOCD or DPP.		375	14 documents	5,250
			\$27,348 x 14 = \$382,872		
296(b); 297	Submit a revised CID for approval.		100	13 revisions	1,300
Subtotal			27 responses	6,550 hours	
			\$382,872 non-hour costs		
Seismic Survey Mitigation Measures and Protected Species Observer Program NTL*					
NTL 2016-G02; 211 thru 228; 241 thru 262	Submit to BOEM observer training requirement materials and information.		1.5 hours	2 sets of material	3
	Training certification and recordkeeping.		1 hour	1 new trainee	1
	During seismic acquisition operations, submit daily observer reports semi-monthly.		1.5 hours	344 reports	516
	If used, submit to BOEM information on any passive acoustic monitoring system prior to placing it in service.		2 hour	6 submittals	12
	During seismic acquisition operations, submit to BOEM marine mammal observation report(s) semi-monthly or within 14 hours if air gun operations were		1.5 hours	1,976 reports	2,964



Citation 30 CFR 550 Subpart B and NTLs	Reporting & Recordkeeping Requirement	Hour Burden	Average No. of Annual Responses	Burden Hours
		Non-Hour Costs		
	shut down.			
	During seismic acquisition operations, when air guns are being discharged, submit daily observer reports semi-monthly.	1.5 hours	344 reports	516
	Observation Duty (3 observers fulfilling an 8 hour shift each for 365 calendar days x 4 vessels = 35,040 man-hours). This requirement is contracted out; hence the non-hour cost burden.	3 observers x 8 hrs x 365 days = 8,760 hours x 4 vessels observing = 35,040 man-hours x \$52/hr = \$1,822,080 non-hour costs		
Subtotal			2,673 responses	4,012 hours
			\$1,822,080 Non-Hour Costs	
Vessel Strike Avoidance and Injured/Protected Species Reporting NTL <sup>*</sup>				
NTL 2016-G01; 211 thru 228; 241 thru 262	Notify BOEM within 24 hours of strike, when your vessel injures/kills a protected species (marine mammal/sea turtle).	1 hour	1 notice	1
Subtotal			1 response	1 hour
General Departure and Alternative Compliance				
200 thru 299	General departure and alternative compliance requests not specifically covered elsewhere in Subpart B regulations.	2	25 requests	50
Subtotal			25 responses	50 hours
TOTAL BURDEN			4,266 Responses	436,438 Hours
			\$3,939,435 Non-Hour Costs	

<sup>\*</sup> The identification number of NTLs may change when NTLs are reissued periodically to update information.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

We will protect information considered proprietary under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552) and Department of the Interior implementing regulations (43 CFR part 2), 30 CFR 550.197, “Data and information to be made available to the public or for limited inspection,” and 30 CFR part 552, “Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Information Program.”

The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. § 3501 *et seq.*).

Dated: December 8, 2017.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deanna Meyer-Pietruszka  
Chief, Office of Policy, Regulation and Analysis

[FR Doc. 2017-27051 Filed: 12/14/2017 8:45 am; Publication Date: 12/15/2017]